

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03234 182115 Z

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-13 RSR-01

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R 182049 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7758

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR IORM

EO 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR PN

SUBJ: DEAN ALLEGATION: SUMMARY OF PRESS REACTION

REF: PANAMA 3148 AND USIS MEDIA REACTION OF JUNE 14, 1973

SUMMARY. PANAMANIAN PRESS HAS CONTINUED LOW- KEY TREATMENT OF ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE TORRIJOS AND, EXCEPT FOR AMBASSADOR BOYD AND ASSEMBLY SECRETARY GENERAL CARLOS CALZADILLA, NO PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE PUBLICLY DISCUSSED ALLEGED PLOT . END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED USIS PRESS SUMMARY JUNE 14 CRITICA EDITORIAL BLAMED CIA FOR PLOT. PRESS COVERAGE ON JUNE 15 WAS CONFINED TO COMMENTS ON AMBASSADOR BOYD' S REMARKS (SEE REFTEL). DURING WEEKEND, NEWSPAPERS VIRTUALLY IGNORED SUBJECT ALTHOUGH CRITICA AND MATUTINO JUNE 18 CARRIED SPANISH AGENCY ARTICLE FROM MEXICO CITY QUOTING CARLOS CALZADILLA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF ASSEMBLY OF CORREGIMIENTO REPRESENTATIVES, AS SAYING " IT IS POSSIBLE THAT CIA HAS SET IN MOTION ITS CRIME MACHINE AGAINST

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THE COMMANDER OF THE PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD
BECAUSE (CIA) DOES NOT VACILLATE IN ACTING... TO SAFEGUARD THE
INTERESTS OF IMPERIALISM." CALZADILLA,
WHO IS VISITING MEXICO AS PART OF A MISSION TO PROMOTE
WORLD PEACE CONFERENCE, WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING US HAS 14
MILITARY BASES AND 15,000 SOLDIERS IN CANAL ZONE ARMED WITH THE
MOST MODERN WEAPONS, INCLUDING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE CHARGED
CIA WAS MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF PANAMA AND ASSERTED
THAT TORRIJOS' S ELIM8 NATION WOULD NOT SOLVE PROBLEM POSED FOR
US BY " IRREVOCABLE DECISION OF PANAMANIAN TO RECOVER THE
CANAL."

2. THE CONTINUED LOW- KEY TREATMENT OF ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLOT
BY PRESS DURING PAST WEEK CONFIRMS PREVIOUS INDICATIONS THAT GOP
DOES NOT WISH TO COMPLICATE US- PANAMANIAN RELATIONS AT THIS
TIME. CALZADILLA IS EXTREME INTEMPERATE SPOKESMAN LEADER
IN 1964 RIOTS, AND HIS WORDS DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT GOP
LINE.
SAYRE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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